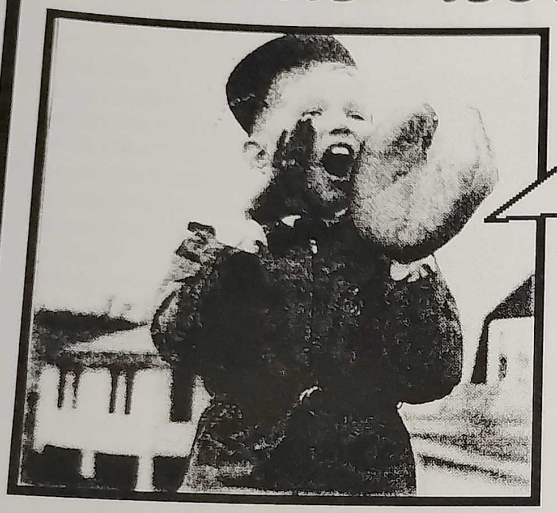
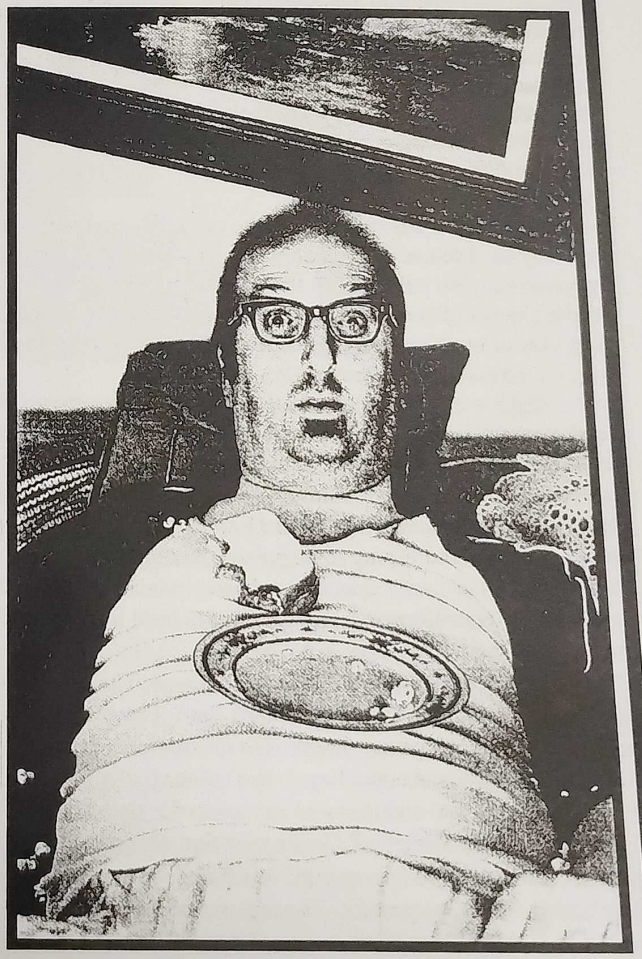
The RedBird Word

In this issue...

October 2001



Guess how many roaches were in your jar of jelly?



Tenacious D & K-PAX!!

Homecoming?
What Homecoming?

what you didn't want to know about your fast food...

Vol. 35 Alton High School No.2
2200 College Ave./ Alton, IL. 62002

Pushy Broads and Power Trips
RedBirdWord
October 2001

What Dreams May Come...

by Alison Hanold
Editor-in-Chief

Last night I had a dream. In this dream I was naked standing in the lunch line. Oh, sorry, wrong dream, nevermind. Anyway, in the dream I meant to tell all of you wonderful readers about was about my first day of college. While I do not currently have any idea as to how exactly this event in my life will occur, it was enough to make me consider trading in my current high honor roll status for the life of a "super senior."

My dream began riding in the car with my family on the way to moving in. I felt as if I was only 14 years old and extremely attached to my parents. We pulled up to the campus and it looked something like a Gothic cathedral, tall, dark and brooding. We got out of the car and made our way through the maze of halls and buildings, only to find my dorm after a long and difficult struggle.

Upon approaching my room, I looked at my surroundings. Everyone seemed severly unfriendly and much older than I. I soon found my room, and before I could even set down my bags, my parents had disappeared. I ran into the hall finding only a crowd of faceless heads. I cried out something generic like "Dear God NO!!!!," but heard only my own echo and crickets chirping in response. Feeling extreme desperation and experiencing an overly dramatic subconscious reaction, I sulked back to my room, flopped down on my unusually hard bed, sobbed like a baby and fell asleep.

I awoke (realistically not subconsciously) and being the nocturnal psycho analyst that I have discovered I am, I attempted to decifer what exactly this dream meant. There was the obvious, that I am just secretly incredibly nervous about college. But what exactly is it about this transition that scares me, and many of my peers for that matter? Is it the idea that maybe we won't fit in? Could it be that we are afraid to let go of the sheltered lives we've led up until this point, or are we just not emotionally and mentally prepared? The answer could be all of the above. No matter the correct response, none of us are alone in our worries.

Is there any kind of solution that I, the Midnight Philosopher, can offer? Absolutely not. I do, however, find it a bit reassuring that when I get there, all of the other freshmen will feel the same way I do. Oh, if only life could be like *Saved By The Bell: The College Years.* With my luck, however, I'd probably end up rooming with that annoying Alex girl and gaining the "freshmen fifteen" before the end of September. Oh well, c'est la vie.

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"News with a purpose...
inform,
enlighten,
and entertain."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The RedBird Word staff would love to hear you feedback. Please send any comments, questions, complaints, or ideas to Mrs. Brave's room, 401.

Alton Senior High School
2200 College Ave.
Alton, IL 62002

Cover Designed by Alex Tanner
Cover Photos courtesy of U.S. News and World Report

Straight From the Bird's Mouth
RedBird Word
October 2001

You Are Appreciated

by Josh Lambie
Business Editor

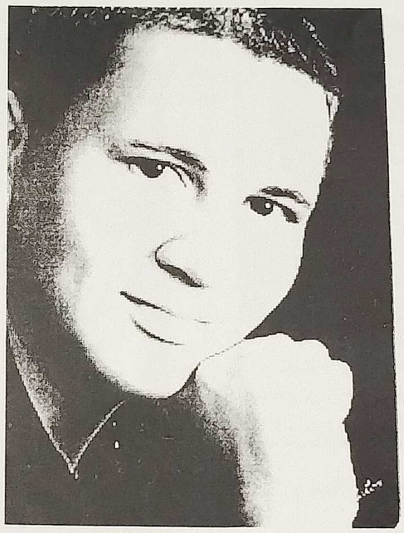
A teacher has one of the most important roles in the world today. The job of a teacher is imperative to the future this country. A teacher takes an adolescent, and gives him or her the knowledge and tools needed to succeed in the future ahead. God has blessed our world with an abundance of determined, intelligent and caring teachers. These teachers come to school everyday with the intent to educate those willing to learn. Teachers who go home at night to grade papers, tests, and prepare lesson plans for the next day. Teachers who devote their off time, which is not much, to their students, their work, and their passions for educating the youth of our future. Teaching is not just a forty-hour week but also a lifetime of dedication.

photo by Sears

It is important that we as students realize that teachers do not have an easy job. Their job is to take a student, already overwhelmed with the knowledge they have obtained so far, and educate him or her with new and progressively harder material. They also have the distinct honor of dealing with maturing pupils who at the same time are experiencing new things and feelings for the first time. If this job seems easy, think again. They have the responsibility of attempting to educate each child that comes through their door. It is a humbling job, and deserves as much respect as any other essential professions in the world today.

The next time we as the next generation of lawyers, businessmen and women, doctors, politicians and teachers step into a classroom, it is important to show respect to our teachers. We will assume the position that they currently hold. We will be the next working class of U.S. citizens supporting the nation. When we look back at our success we will remember, and appreciated the efforts of our teachers to teach the knowledge that we sometimes take for granted. Teachers are important reason we will succeed in life. It is important to remember the next time we are in a class with a teacher to respect them and to take advantage of the education that has been provided to the U.S.

Freshmen = Firehazard



by Nik Kern
Mananging Editor

Standing there like a deer in the headlights, freshmen have this glazed look on their face when you try and move through their aggragate of friends. Their massive groups are similar to those of cattle herds, massive and uncooperative. There can not be just one freshmen in the way either, freshmen have to keep to their instictive middle school habbits and herd in groups of 40 or more.

If the City of Alton Fire Marshall was to visit Alton High School in the morning, I'm sure that the school would possibly violate a fire ordinance such as, blocking an exit, blocking the stairs, or blocking a walk way. The school should hope that the Fire Marshall does not visit in the morning while it is raining. It is impossible to get through the hallways or move up and down the stairs. They are not as cool as the seniors and have a car to hang out by.

Perhaps we should develop a freshmen lounge. This would eliminate the massive groups of freshmen, and perhaps free up some space so upperclassmen can make it to class on time. Another suggestion to help this freshmen aggragate would to have seniors give lessons to freshmen on how to stay out of seniors ways, and how not crowd walkways and stairs. A possible extreme way of resolving the situation would be to arm the Pit cops with cattle prods to break up the herds of freshmen. However, this would be rather costly because the Pit cops would need extensive training. If we left it up to them, they would stun themselves and infict bodily harm to themselves and or others.

If we cannot resolve this issue we must stress to teachers the horrors of the herds so they will have sympathy for us seniors when we arrive late to there class a few seconds after the bell rings. Or perhaps if the freshmen had a clue, some common sense, and common courtesy the school would be a better place.

In Loving Memory of Abby T. Purcell

March 17, 1983-October 1, 2001

Abby Purcell, daughter of Patrick W. Purcell and Marla A. Purcell, was an alumna of Alton High School.

Marla Purcell is an English teacher at Alton High School. Just as Abby was, Mrs. Purcell is loved by many students.

You Are Not Forgotten

You are not forgotten, loved one
Nor will you ever be,
As long as life and memory last
We will remember thee.
We will miss you now, our hearts are sore
As time goes by we'll miss you more.
Your loving smile, your gentle face,
No one can fill your vacant place.

Tribute designed by Christin Campbell

Halloween Parade Expects Big Success

by Jeremy Myers

This year Alton will be presenting it's 85th annual Halloween Parade, hosted by the East End Improvement Association. It will be October 31, 2001 at 7:30 p.m., and will extend from Washington Avenue in Alton to Piasa Street.

The parade bagan in 1916 by the East End Improvemnet Association and was held in conjunction with the annual Halloween Ball at Turner Hall on Ridge Street in Alton. The paprade has been held ever year since then except for during World War II.

All entries will be accepted up until October 26, 2001 and all must have a Halloween theme. A few of the entries will be from the Alton Police Department, Fire Department, Antique Automobiles, and a few family or small business entries. For information on entries contact Donald Huber, member of the Alton Halloween Parade Committee, at 462-7527.

"This is the best parade that we have ever had," said Don Huber, member of the parade committee. "The telegraph estimates 30 thousand people to be in attendance," said Huber.

The parade will consist of over 100 units including over 50 floats, 20 emergency vehicles, 7-10 marching bands including the Alton Marching 100 and the John Ford Highlander Bagpipe Band, two Jazz Bands on Trucks, marches in costume, dignitaries, and other attractions.

"The president said 'Let's move on,' so we're gonna have a Halloween Parade," said Huber.

Quill and Scroll Kicks Off New Year

by Adam Betz
News Editor

On October 11, the members of Quill and Scroll met for the first time this year to elect officers.

The new officers are as follows: President Scott Schwartz, Vice-President Laura Griffith, Recording Secretary Nancy McDonald, Corresponding Secretary Joshua Lambie, and Treasurer Diane Holden.

photo by Jennifer Frederick
From left to right: Scott Schwartz, Laura Griffith, Nancy McDonald, Joshua Lambie and Diane Holden

"It is the greatest achievement of my scholastic career," said president Scott Schwartz.

Meetings for the group are tentatively scheduled to be on the first Thursday following the first Wednesday of every month. At the next meeting new business and the community service project will be discussed.

"I feel special that I was elected vice-president of Quill and Scroll. It's a great honor," said vice-president Laura Griffith.

Bus Hurdles Continue to Grow

by Adam Harrow and Holly Westmoreland

Within the first quarter of school there have been over five different occurences where students were late because the buses did not pick them up on time.

"The buses should never be late unless there is a mechanical problem or something uncontrollable happens," said one anonymous bus driver. "The buses are usually late due to a sudden change in routes," added the driver.

"Not knowing if your bus is going to be on time or are you going to be late is not what students should be thinking about first thing in the morning," said parent Georgina Harrow.

photo by Jennifer Frederick
Officer McClain checks for ID's before students are allowed to board the bus.

This is not the only problem that students are being faced with about the bus situation. Students are now forced to wear their ID tags just to be allowed on and off the bus, and if for some reason they don't have their ID's then they will not be allowed to ride the bus.

The staff at Alton High School says that the ID's are for safety reasons, even on the buses. Many students are not happy with the new bus ID rule.

"Just because some students don't know how to act does not mean that we should all be punished," said senior Zach Smith. Many students feel the same way. "I just started high school and I already hate the ID rules," said freshman Jake Roberts.

There has been an increase in the number of bus changes and late buses already in the first quarter, however there have been no major problems with the bus system so the district is content for now with how it is running.

The Real Issue Introduced

by Josh Lambie
Business Editor

The Telegraph has recently added a new addition to its barrage of reading material. It will be publishing a bimonthly magazine intended to reach out to a crowd of readers under twenty-one. This publication will be called *The Real Issue*. The magazine will discuss topics and areas of interests surrounding the lives of teenagers.

Telegraph employee Amy Parker will advise *The Real Issue*, but the editorials and stories will be chosen and written by local journalism students. "I think the project is a great new endeavor, and it should serve as a great tool for teenagers tweny-one and under," said Parker.

The Real Issue has a complete staff of young adults under the age of twenty-one, except the adviser. The staff consists of the following people: Nik Kern- managing editor, Nancy McDonald- news editor, Erin Deblass- in-depth editor, Andy Clark- opinions editor, Josh Lambie- entertainment editor, Robert Doyle-music editor, and Sarah Whitney- sports editor.

"I'm glad that I play a key role in this project. I hope it serves the teenagers in this area well," said Managing Editor Nik Kern.

News Editor Nancy McDonald said, " Being in a position as important as New Editor makes me happy. Hopefully I will become a professional news editor for a newspaper after college."

The staff has weekly meetings every Monday night at 6:30. These meetings are used to constructively brainstorm ideas for the content of the magazine. The first issue is due to be out by November 1.

Alton Park Lights Up

by Carl McMullen

Rock Springs Park will light up with the annual Celebration of Christmas with millions of lights from November 7th to December 36th.

The 65 acre park will be decorated through the trees and along the roads with over 2.5 million colored lights and over 100 Dicken's, *A Christmas Carol,* themed displays. Local businesses in the area finance the displays each year. The park will feature over a dozen Christmas trees decorated by area youth organizations. A petting zoo, weekend carriage rides, and a Santa house are only a few activities offered during the celebration.

The event holders are asking for donations to help fund the display of lights. "A donation of seven dollars per car or van, or one dollar per passenger is asked," said Ron McMullen, a six-year worker of the Christmas celebration.

Anyone with questions are asked to contact the Rock Springs Park Celebration of Christmas event holders at (618)-466-8858.

Religion Is In Schools

by Kristin Hammond

Since September 11, we have heard cries of fear throughout the United States and the world. Somewhere in the midst of tragedy, schools and students are finding peace, within a higher power. God, prayer, faith and hope, all of a sudden, are reentering our schools, even for those schools which prohibit religious activity, including prayer. Many students at Alton High School have decided that ID's, cafeteria food and small conflicts with friends maybe aren't as important as they thought.

"People are getting scared into faith, and it's sad that it took this sort of event to do that," said junior Elaine Siddle. A lot of Christian students feel that because of the events that occurred people are now turning to prayer and God out of fear, and not because of their "real" faith.

Freshman Haley Zugmaier explained, "It's weird because people that have never prayed are starting to lead prayers."

Not only is prayer becoming important to schools and students, but the whole world is turning to prayer and God for answers and help. Around the world we see the phrase, "God Bless America." So what's next? No one knows, but keep praying.

Alton High students come together in prayer.
photo courtesy of www. thetelegraph.com

Distracted Drivers

by Andrew Clark

Every time teenagers get behind the wheel of a car, they are potentially at risk of being injured or even killed. More and more, distracted driver accidents have been happening around Alton. Distractions such as food and the radio are accountable for one out of every four car accidents.

According to the pamphlet by Shell Corporation, *Deadly Distractions,* the best way to avoid such distractions is not to have them in the first place.

Also, according to the pamphlet, teenagers are at most risk for being distracted. Most teens like to eat, play loud music, and talk to their friends. Any driver who decides to ignore these problems with distractions on the road, are putting themselves and others at risk.

Bombs Away

by Daniel Lester
Copy Editor

On October 7, 2001 the United States, along with Great Britain, began its war on international terrorism. Bombing raids over Afghanistan started at nightfall and have continued without reprimand. United States jets have pounded the Afghanistan capital Kabul, along with Taliban strategic cities of Kandhar and Shamshaad.

The Taliban, who has given bin Laden the authority to wage a holy war against Americans, have failed to hamper the U.S. effort. Self-admittedly the Taliban regime does not have a modernized military and can not compete with the Americans in the skies.

With only about 100 airplanes, which are Soviet leftovers, the Taliban had no way of air-to-air combat, and they can not possibly hope to bomb America or any of its strongholds. The only hope for these Islamic militants is their surface-to-air missiles and their antiaircraft gunners. Neither of the operators of these machines have been well-trained, so the possibility of American loss in the skies is very minimal at worst.

The United States is using its full power in this war against the Taliban and terrorists. With the use of F/A 14'S, F/A 18'S, B-2, and B-52 aircraft, we have claimed air supremacy with in the first 72 hours of the attacks. In backup of these jets the U.S. Navy has sent four battlegroups to the surrounding seas, which play the role of launching cruise and tomahawk missiles into Taliban establishments.

The military has also deployed special operations units to rage mountain warfare against Usama bin Laden and his followers. The Army Delta force, Navy SEALS, and Marine Corp. Reconnaissance are among the groups that could be involved in the deployment to Afghanistan.

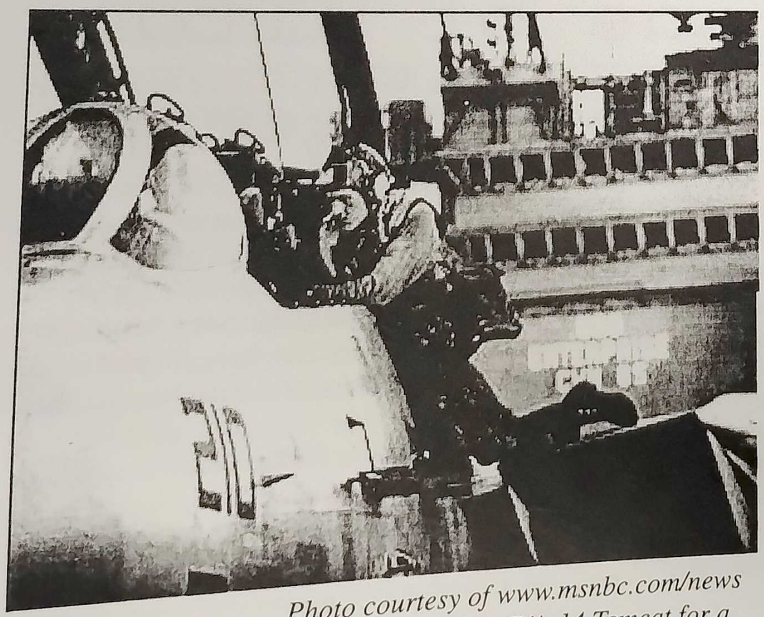


Photo courtesy of www.msnbc.com/news

An airman for the U.S. Navy prepares a F/A-14 Tomcat for a bombing raid over Afghanistan. This is one of the four aircraft used in the attacks.

Anthrax in the Sunshine State

by Daniel Lester
Copy Editor

A thirty-five-year-old women, who works at American Media Headquarters, has contracted the anthrax bacteria. The woman, who wishes to remain anonymous, is the third employee to contract the bacteria at this tabloid company.

The first victim, Bob Stevens, a photo editor, contracted the bacteria and died shortly after. Ernesto Blanco, the second victim, had spores in his nasal passage and was taken to Miami-Dade County Hospital. The Center for Disease Control has not classified Blanco as contracting the bacteria, but family says he almost died over the weekend.

These events have now been classified as a criminal investigation. Lead investigator Hector Pasquera has determined that the anthrax spores were isolated to media headquarters and the strain seems to be a "cruel lab kind." According to Pasquera, this rules out any crackpots who wanted a one time shot at fame.

Guy Lewis, a U.S. Attorney, has this to say about the criminal investigations, "They will focus on three basic questions; how, when and why the bacteria was spread."

The U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft said, "These are not being treated as terrorist attacks, but as a criminal investigation and show no links between the September 11th attacks and this bacteria."

The United State has its major resource of anthrax in Iowa. Tom Vilsack, governor of Iowa, had this to say about the anthrax supply that is located in his state, "We have increased security at the locations that store anthrax by using the National Guard and the state police, and this is a precautionary measure to insure the safety of Iowans and Americans alike." There have been no reports of any missing anthrax bacteria that have surfaced.

John Agwunobi , the Florida secretary of health, urged residents not to panic and reminded them that anthrax is not contagious. He was thankful that state and federal officials caught these cases early enough to prevent a widespread anthrax epidemic within the state. As far as we know no additional cases of this deadly virus have been reported within Florida and the United States.

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(Across from Casey's on Godfrey Rd.)
Godfrey, IL 62035
(618) 466-3518

Students Named National Scholars

by Laura Griffith
Features Editor

Two exceptional students at Alton High were recently recognized for their high PSAT scores. Tim Grant and Ed McPike were named National Merit Scholars by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Grant and McPike are among the chosen 34,000 commended students in the United States. Their scores were included in the top 50,000 of over one million students who took the test.

Although only the top 16,000 students become semifinalists and continue to compete for scholarships, this is still a great honor.

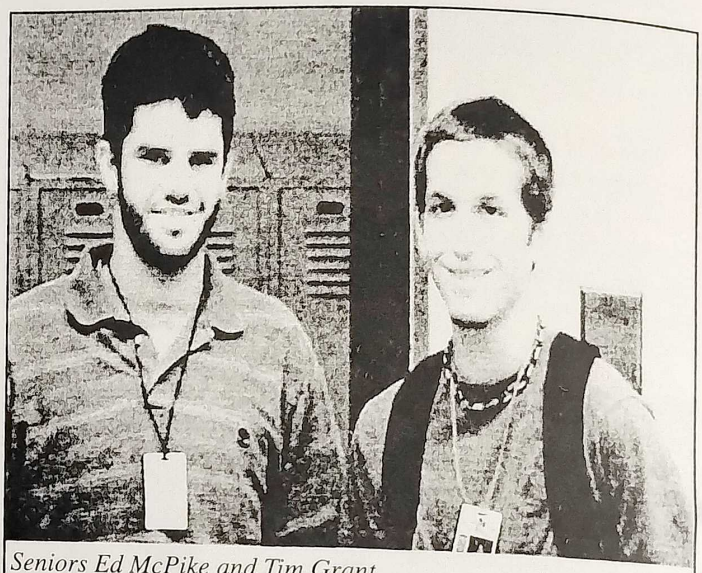
Juniors are encouraged to take the PSAT (practice SAT), but it is not required. "A good score on the PSAT can lead to many scholarships," said Grant.

"It's worth it to take the test," added McPike, "Just take it and see what happens."

The PSAT measures critical reading, math, problem solving and writing skills which the student has developed over time. It does not measure creativity however, which is also a quality colleges tend to look for.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation is a non-profit organization that operates without government assistance.

To learn more about the SAT and the Merit Scholarship Awards, visit www.nationalmerit.org.



Seniors Ed McPike and Tim Grant
photo by Jennifer Frederick

The "Other" Side of Alton

by Sandy Walter and
Laura Griffith
Features Editor

Halloween is coming, and the people of Alton may be experiencing strange happenings and feelings. Footsteps, strange noises, whispers and cold chills are many of the signs that the residents of this town may not be alone.

Most are aware of the ghost of Sarah Wells that supposedly haunts the McPike Mansion, but other hauntings are not as well-known. There are spirits from the Civil War believed to be haunting several different places. People have reported several strange events at Lewis and Clark Community College and Milton School as well. Alton even has a haunted church.

Mineral Springs Hotel, now an antique shopping mall in downtown Alton, is supposedly haunted by several ghosts who died there. It opened in 1909 as a lavish hotel with a mineral pool in the basement that was said to have had special healing powers. The most famous ghost who is said to haunt the old hotel is a woman who fell down the stairs and broke her neck while running from her husband. They were having an argument after he caught her having an affair on one of the top floors. Her husband later committed suicide in the hotel. People report the scent of jasmine in the stairway where she was killed.

Another ghost in the old hotel was killed when his wife hit him in the head with the heel of her shoe. He then fell in the pool and drowned. He has been looking for revenge upon his wife ever since, according to local legend.

Philip Mercer is the minister who is said to haunt Alton's First Unitarian Church. He was believed to have hung himself in the church, although there was no evidence of a suicide. Nor was there any evidence of a murder.

The upstairs level of the Meridian Coffee House is said to be haunted also. In the recent past, the Meridian has been a place for teens to hang out or check out a local band. Some believe the stories while others remain skeptics. "It's not what you see that you should be afraid of..." said senior Thomas Edwards.

Each spirit has its own legacy. Although Alton can be a boring town, there may be a lot more going on around here than people think, as far as the supernatural goes.

The Corn Maze, Haunted?

by Diane Holden
Senior Editor

The sun sets over Glazebrook Park. Darkness falls over The Great Godfrey Corn Maze. These last few days of October, you never know what will be lurking around the next corner.

The Great Godfrey Maze, located in the Robert E. Glazebrook Park on Stamper Lane, will be hosting the second annual haunted maze. There are two mazes that make up the American Bald Eagle, but around Halloween it becomes haunted.

The first maze will be filled with all sorts of fun and scary halloween decorations. The "corn cops" will be dressed up in costumes hiding throughout the maze in attempt to scare you. Senior Becky Hughes, a customer who visited the haunted maze last year, said, "It scared me and yet it was still fun."

It is not only scary for the customers. "Corn Cop" Christy Haworth said, "It was a blast last year. I got scared every time I had to walk through the maze, and I work there!"

The second maze will not be haunted, but you will still have to find your way through the dark, unless you bring a flashlight to help you get though the maze.

All the corn maze workers agree that this year will be bigger and better. "Be ready for fun and expect to be scared," said Recreation Program Supervisor Nikki Lockhart.

The haunted maze will begin October 26 and end on Halloween when the maze closes until next year. Check the ad appearing in this issue for times and prices. Volunteers are needed. If you would like to volunteer, call 466-1483 ext. 1 and ask for Nikki.

Corn Cop Renee Beatty haunting the maze.
photo by Diane Holden

A Positive Place for Kids

by Alex Tanner
Senior Editor

Many individuals in our community contribute their time and efforts to a special program called the Boys and Girls Club. This after-school program focuses on the younger generation of our society, providing a safe and positive environment for children.

Students, as well as adults, volunteer as supervisors for the children. There are three sites upon which this program operates in the Alton area: Lovejoy Elementary School, Eunice Smith Elememtary School and the Catholic Children's Home.

Children ages 6-11 attend from 3-6 p.m., and children ages 12 and up attend between the hours of 6-9 p.m. The most important activity in the program is called "Power Hour." This is a time during which the children receive assistance with their homework. Following "Power Hour," the children engage in such activities as basketball, sideline soccer, kickball, Wheel of Fortune and Shoe Scramble. They are also treated to a Movie Day each week and field trips to places like the St. Louis Zoo and YWCA.

Tina Madison, Brandis Mitchell, and Charmaine Helmes are just a few of the many volunteers in the program. "The Boys and Girls Club is a positive place where kids can go to meet other children, share activities and get help with homework," said Toni Baskin, a former volunteer.

Children are not allowed to participate in any activities until they have spent time studying. This program not only keeps kids out of trouble, but it also teaches them personal values and provides role models and mentors.

Au Revoir, French Trip

by Amanda Thomas

As a result of the tragic terrorist attacks on America, the Alton Community School District has cancelled all school sponsored events that involve international travel for the rest of the year. Alton High's trip to France was one of these cancelled events. The trip, which was originally planned for the first part of June next summer, will possibly offered again the following year.

The price, which was $ 2500 for the French trip, is not expected to change. Alton High students have used the United Airline to fly to France in the past, but what airline will be used for the following trip is still being carefully considered by the teachers and travel agents. This is the first time that any international trip has had to be cancelled. According to Mrs. Green, one of the French teachers at Alton High, it was a wise decision to cancel the trip and to be cautious about the safety of students. Anyone interested in signing up for the next French trip should contact Mrs. Green in room 536.

Rumors is the name; confusion is the game!

by Jeremy Myers

A man some call the greatest prolific play write, Neil Simon, well known for his comic acts, created this funny show that takes place in a small suburb of New York City. Charles Brock, the town's Deputy Mayor, and his wife, Myra, are celebrating their tenth anniversary and invite four couples to dinner.

The characters, starting with the first to arrive, include Ken and Chris Gorman, played by Chris Hesh and Katie Cline, Lenny and Claire Ganz, played by Adam Betz and Alison Hanold, Ernie and Cookie Cusack, played by Brandon Kreple and Julie Strassman, and Glen and Cassie Cooper, played by Jeremy Myers and Mary-Kate Malone. James Winters plays Officer Welch and Jennifer Ryrie plays Officer Pudney.

As the couples arrive they uncover a mystery. The first couple realizes something has gone terribly wrong, but has no idea exactly what. They make up a story to explain the situation and tell it to the second couple when they show up. The second couple tells a slightly different story to the third couple who tells the fourth couple yet another story. By this time, everything is so confusing and blown out of proportion that no one knows what to believe and why.

All that Mr. Waters, AHS theatrical director, has to say is, "That's what happens when people make up stories to cover up something." The performances have been moved back a week to November 2nd and 3rd at 8 PM both nights. Ticket prices are two dollars in advance for students, three dollars for adults and three dollars at the door.

Marching 100 Still Strong

by Juan Black

As the 2001 season of the Marching 100 comes to an end, members have continued to push forward, and have not hung up their marching shoes yet. The band has progressed to a higher placement with every competition that they have participated in this season. At Murphysboro, the 100 took fourth place. At O'Fallon they placed third, and at their most recent competition, in Carbondale, the band placed second and the drum line won Best Percussion.

"Man, we really have worked hard all season! Through camp, through our seventh hour practice, we are really busy," said senior trumpet player Clinton Followell. "We have already gone through three competitions, and every one has been better than the one before," he said.

The band has only one competition left. Their last show of the year will be at the Greater St. Louis Marching Band Festival in St. Louis, MO, where they took third place in the Red Division last year.

Amnesty International Makes Difference

by Julie Strassman
Senior Editor

The September 11 attack on New York has most people wanting to strike back at terrorists around the world. At Alton High, there's a group that does just that every year.

The students in Amnesty International, headed by Mrs. Hilgert, AHS social studies teacher, write letters to people oppressed by terrorists and totalitarian governments. Their letters help bring hope to prisoners of war and thousands of others. Contrary to popular belief, Amnesty does not write to the terrorists themselves. "Brian Ray wanted to write to Bin Laden, but we wouldn't let him. He wanted to write and tell him how evil he is, but no," said junior Amber Stalcup.

Instead, the members concentrate on condoling victims of war and terrorism, and just showing them that people do know and care about their situation. Amnesty International is a wonderful organization for students who want to make a difference in the world. Anyone interested should contact Mrs. Hilgert or attend one of the meetings held every Tuesday at 3 p.m. in room 520.

GODFREY PARKS · RECREATION PRESENTS
THE GREAT GODFREY HAUNTED MAZE

The Haunting of the Maze begins:
Friday October 26th through Wednesday October 31st

The haunting will begin when it gets dark.
***** You never know what will "pop" out at you.

BRING YOUR FLASHLIGHTS

Hours of operation for haunted maze:

Fri. Oct. 26: 4pm - 10pm
Sat. Oct. 27: 10am - 10pm
Sun. Oct. 28: 1pm - 9pm
Mon. Oct. 29 - Wed. Oct. 31: 4pm - 9pm

THE MAZE HOURS OF OPERATION
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SATURDAY 10:00a.m. - 9:00p.m.
SUNDAY 1:00p.m. - dusk

PRICING:

$6 - (12yrs. & older)
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Godfrey
Parks & Recreation Department

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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www.greatgodfreymaze.com
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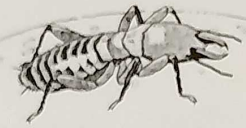


Happy Gross

information compiled by
Andy Duggan
Cover Story Editor

Unhappy Meal

Katherine Ortega bought a box of fried chicken wings at a local McDonald's restaurant and took it home for her family. While dishing it out, she noticed that one of the wings had eyes and a beak. It wasn't a wing at all; it was a chicken head, battered and fried, but fully intact.

~http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/weekly

~ What do people and lobsters have in common? They both like to eat lobster.

~Literally translated, the word *carnival* means "flesh, farewell."

~It's possible to sneeze hard enough to break your own ribs.

~You burn more calories while you're sleeping than you do watching TV.

Roach Burritos?

There are stories circulating that after a customer consumed three bean burritos, she awoke the next day with her throat bleeding inside. She was rushed to the hospital for four hours of surgery because her whole body was infected with cockroach eggs. They went back to that Taco Bell and discovered the entire place was infested with cockroach eggs.

~http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/weekly

~ NASA spent $200,000 on a "sanitary-napkin disposal unit" for female astronauts in 1992.

~ In the next seven days, roughly 800 Americans will be injured by their own jewelry.

~ Otters can get Herpes.

~There are more telephones than people in Washington, D.C.

~Fort Worth, Texas was never a fort.

~Mayonnaise is an excellent skin moisturizer.

~The earliest forms of shock treatment involved electric eels..

~In the Thirteenth Century Europeans baptized children with beer.

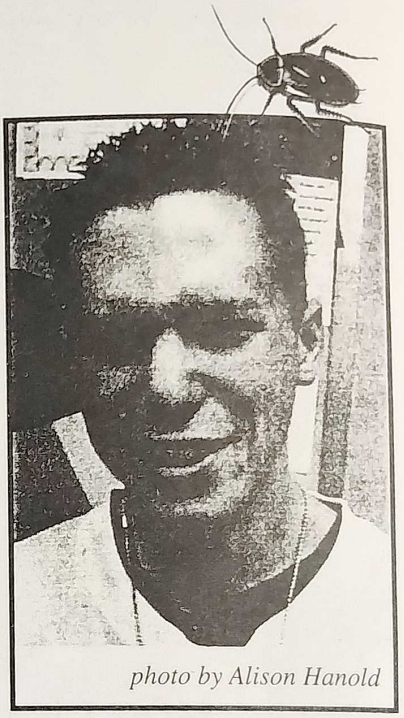


photo by Alison Hanold

~How did venereal disease get its name? From Venus, the Roman goddess of love.

~10 percent of the Russian government's income comes from the sale of vodka.

~When a camel spits, it aims for the eyes.

Pizza without the "P"

A man's friend was sitting at his office late at night because his car broke down and he had no way of getting home. He called Pizza Hut. He told them he would be working in the office at the apartment complex. An hour and a half later he called Pizza Hut again. They were being really irate with him because they had gone to the apartment instead of the office. The man tried to explain but the manager on duty was being very rude and insulting. He started to chew out the manager and the manager finally gave in and said, okay we'll send another pizza over but it will take another hour and a half.

When the pizza arrived he thought that it tasted funny but he ate it anyway. The next morning he felt very sick. He went to the doctor. On his way there was a polaroid stuck to his office door. It showed two or three employees in Pizza Hut uniforms urinating on a pizza he assumed was his!

~http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/weekly

...s Halloween

"Once while eating some Kentucky Fried Chicken, I bit into a piece of glass."
Annice Brave, teacher

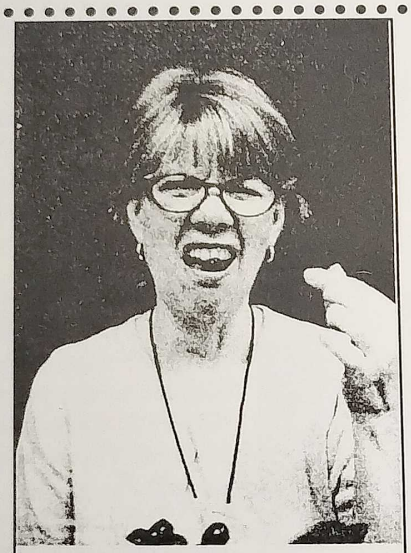


photo by Alison Hanold

~About 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every year.

~The Bible is the most shoplifted book in the U.S.

~Louis XIV bathed once a year.

~One in three Taiwanese funeral processions includes a stripper.

~Every processed food is allowed to contain a certain percentage of cockroach pieces, rat hair, rat feces and other delectable tidbits.

~There are 33 vampire fan clubs in the U.S.

~In 1999 The Pentagon spent 50 million dollars on Viagra for American troops and retirees.

~Queen Victoria smoked marijuana for her cramps.

~In 1992, it was reported that at least 2,421 people checked into U.S. emergency rooms with injuries involving house plants. Also, at least 5,840 people checked in with pillow related injuries.

~LSD was legal in California until 1967.

~People in nudist colonies play volleyball more often than any other sport.

~The "G" in g-string stands for groin.

The McPus Sandwich

A woman went into McDonald's restaurant in Ayer, MA. She ordered a fried chicken sandwich. She told the cashier to hold the mayonnaise, along with the tomatoes. After everything was ordered she sat down, unwrapped her sandwich, and took a huge bite. There was a huge glob of mayonnaise in her mouth.

Annoyed, she brought it up to the cashier and demanded a new sandwich. She asked, specifically for no tomatoes and NO MAYO on this next sandwich. The cooks insisted that they had put no mayo on the first sandwich, but promptly prepared another.

She was about to take her new mayonnaiseless McChicken Deluxe back to her table, when she felt very sick and vomited in several colors, followed by blood, onto the floor. The workers then examined the discarded sandwich and found that they indeed had not included mayonnaise, but a chicken patty with a pus-filled tumor.

Of course don't take this for fact, only as an urban legend.

http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/blmcpus.htm

~Three percent of Americans shower with their pets to clean them.

~By 3000 B.C. there were at least six different types of beer in Egypt.

~On some Caribbean islands oysters can climb trees.

~In France it's against the law to stare at the mayor of Paris.

~More Americans lose their virginity in June than any other month.

~The number one murder weapon of choice in the U.S. is the hammer.

~McDonalds has sold over 280 million gallons of hamburger grease since 1955, but no reports on kangaroo meat.

Most of the insane facts on this page were compiled from The *Best of Uncle John's Bathroom Reader, Uncle John's Absolutely Absorbing Bathroom Reader,* and *Uncle John's Ultimate Bathroom Reader.*

The "Greatest Band in the World" Comes to St. Louis

by Scott Schwartz
Entertainment Editor

On Sunday, October 7th, the self-proclaimed Greatest Band in the World, Tenacious D, came to the American Theatre in Downtown St. Louis. They played for nearly two hours in front of an adoring sold-out crowd, providing the perfect mix of comedy and rock 'n roll.

The acoustic duo, consisting of Hollywood comedian Jack Black (*Saving Silverman, High Fidelity*) and Kyle Glass, has just released their first album. The two played the entire two-hour show on acoustic guitars, with the exception of a segment in which Black serenaded the audience with a cheap, Mattel knock-off, plastic saxophone.

The band, took many short breaks between songs to play out scenes that correlated with the songs. Straight man Kyle Glass, for instance, took an imaginary bullet for Black, leading to the song, "Kyle Took a Bullet for Me". The two erupted into an argument mid set that led to the song "Kyle Quit the Band". A movie screen featuring a pre-recorded skit about a male-prostitution encounter between Jack and Kyle was lowered to the stage towards the end of the show.

Photo Courtesy of TenaciousD.com

The "D" exhausted their entire catalog of songs, playing many songs that are only available on bootlegs. Together since the early 90s, the dynamic duo made their first mainstream appearance on a short-lived HBO series entitled *Tenacious D*. They ran only a few episodes of the show, but the band garnered a huge underground following. The bands following continued to grow from periodic appearances on network comedy shows like Saturday Night Live and the Late Show with David Letterman.

Senior Karl Fiedler, a fan since the first HBO episode said, "These guys have come a long way. It's good to see them get the recognition they deserve, but when a band gets this big, it sucks because poser fans start showing up."

Senior Nick Hausman attended the show and said of the concert, "It was everything I dreamed it would be. From the first note to the last, the rocking never stopped. When I first saw Jack Black in (the movie) *Airborne*, I knew he had potential and would go far."

The 21-track, self-titled debut was released initially on September 25, but recalled because of graphic material. Songs "Tribute" and "F*** Her Gently", both featured on the album, have recently been receiving minimal local radio play. More information on the D can be found at www.tenaciousd.com.

K-PAX, Out of this World

by Scott Schwartz
Entertainment Editor

Scheduled to open in theaters on October 26, K-PAX, a film starring two-time Academy Award Winner Kevin Spacey as an alien from the planet K-PAX, has movie fans hoping patiently for another *American Beauty*.

Also starring in K-PAX is Jeff Bridges. Bridges plays a psychiatrist that faces the challenge of having to counsel someone who believes he is an alien. As time passes Bridges character, Dr. Mark Powell, begins to realize the tremendous effect that Spacey's character, who calls himself Prot, is having on the rest of his patients.

Throughout the movie the viewer is left wondering if, in fact Prot is from another planet. Promoting the film with the line, "It will change the way you look at the World", K-PAX, promises to be another Kevin Spacey hit.

The Thrill is Back!

by Scott Schwartz
Entertainment Editor

After a six-year hiatus pop-sensation Michael Jackson is back with his 7th full-length album, "Invincible." Scheduled for release on October 30, the new album was diligently recorded at producer Rodney Jerkins' home studio.

The Album features Jackson's latest video opus "Rock My World." The video, which clocks in at just under a quarter of an hour, stars screen legend Marlon Brando and comedian Chris Tucker. The Video falls short of previous epics such as "Thriller" and "Smooth Criminal," but the dancing, as always, is terrific.

Battling back to the top of the charts will be tough for the King of Pop; his image has been permanently damaged by rumors regarding his sexual preference and his constant face alterations. "I don't care what he does in his private life," says senior Josh Terppening, "As long as he can create the illusion of walking on the moon, I'm going to be a fan."

Upcoming Concerts

Sum 41
Mississippi Nights
October 31

Nelly
The Pageant
November 2

D12
Pop's
November 5

Good Charlotte
The Galaxy
November 9

Live
The Pageant
November 11

Nickelback
The Pageant
November 12

India.Arie
The Pageant
November 19

Concerts are subject to change

The Guns of Navarone Unload at the Meridian

by Elaine Myers

The Meridian Coffee House was filled September 30 with people waiting for the musical styling of *The Guns of Navarone*. *The Guns of Navarone* came on stage and rocked the house before fellow bands *Second Story Man* and *Volta Do Mar*. The Guns have a unique rock sound all their own fueled by Jazz, Indie Rock, and Emo rock. The Guns consist of five former Alton High Students, Blake Harner on drums, Devin Peipert on bass, Jon Robertson and Billy Wallace on guitar and Sam Mook on vocals.

Courtesy of thegunsofnavarone.com

The Guns have been together for approximately eights months. "We practice about once a week together, but the music is always in our heads," said Gun's bassist Devin Peipert. Peipert is well educated in music, and took music classes all four years at Alton High. Drummer Blake Harner also practiced music throughout his high school career at Alton High.

"I think the Guns are great; you can see how hard they work to be as good as they are. All of the guys have such a love for music, and that's why they work so well together," said senior Ashley Hudock, long time fan of local music.

Not only do they have experience with music through music departments, they have also been in previous bands, some with each other, some with other friends. Peipert, Harner, and Mook were in together in another Alton area band, *Nova Scotia*. Whether they taught themselves or were taught by instructors, their music talent shines through in their music.

The Guns will be playing several shows at The Meridian Coffee House and at several St. Louis area venues throughout the year. The Guns have a LP out and other merchandise, such as shirts and sweatshirts, that are for sale at their shows. "They should be really good shows; we've been working on new songs. We'd really enjoy people coming out and listening if they have the chance," Peipert said, encouraging people to out to the up coming shows.

Memento Tattoos Itself on DVD

by John Mook
Senior Editor

Otnemem, I mean *Memento* is one of the most original films I seen in a long time. The film runs from end to beginning and has one of the most bizarre plots ever. "*Memento* is easily the best film so far this year," said Richard Roeper of *Ebert and Roeper and the Movies*

Courtesy of imdb.com

Leonard Shelby is a man that suffers from a condition. It is a condition that doesn't allow him to have a short-term memory. He is on a mission to get revenge for his wife. His wife was raped and murdered in his own home. Without having a short-term memory this task would seem impossible, but Leonard has found a system to deal with his condition. Leonard keeps notes, not like notes you keep in history class, but hundreds and hundreds of pages of notes. If he uses the object all the time or its fairly important he takes a picture, and if its extremely important he has it tattooed on his body. He's tracking down John G.;he is the one who supposedly killed his wife, or did Leonard forget who killed his wife, or was his wife even dead or did he just create the whole scenario in his head? These are the questions Leonard shuffles through every 15 minutes of everyday of the rest of his life.

Memento is one of the best films I have seen in a long time. The plot is amazing. Throughout the whole film you feel like Leonard. You have no idea what is real or what is a lie. It is an edge of your seat thriller that is sure to be a classic in your DVD collection.

The DVD is spectacular. It has an eye-catching interactive menu that is full of special features such as an in depth interview with the writer/director, Christopher Nolan. It also has a feature where you can flip through some of Leonard's notes and tattoos for a little extra information of the plot.

Memento is based on a short story by Jonathan Nolan. It stars Guy Pierce and Carrie Anne Moses.

Upcoming Movies

The One
Jet Li
November 2

Monsters Inc.
Billy Crystal
November 2

Brotherhood of the Wolf
Mark Dacascos
November 2

Shallow Hal
Gwyneth Paltrow
November 9

The Wash
Snoop Dog & Dr. Dre
November 14

Video Releases

Shrek
Mike Myers
November 2

Tomb Raider
Angelina Jolie
November 13

America's Sweethearts
Julia Roberts
November 13

Crazy/Beautiful
Kirsten Dunst
November 13

The Grinch
Jim Carrey
November 20

Zoolander Struts Into Theaters

by Stefanie Walker
Senior Editor

Zoolander is a very funny and entertaining movie. Zoolander was based on a short film first shown on the *VH1 Fashion Awards.* The movie was created by Ben Stiller and Drake Sather. Ben Stiller, who plays Derek Zoolander, has starred in such movies as *Meet the Parents* and *Mystery Men.*

Zoolander realizes his decades career as a male model is dwindling down to nothing. He loses his title of "Male Model of the Year" to a new model Hansel. Hansel is played by Owen Wilson, who has starred in such movies as *Shanghai Noon,* and *The Haunting.*

Hansel is a younger, loose, and carefree model who feels he is in constant competition, when in all actuality Hansel looks up to Zoolander.

Zoolander finds out why male models do not live past thirty. The male models are hypnotised to assassinate important people. The reason is because male models do what they are told to do.

By the end of the movie Hansel and Zoolander come together to fight against Mugatu, played by Will Ferrell. At the end of the movie Zoolander shows off why he is the best male model by showing the audience his Megma Stave.

There are many cameos in *Zoolander.* Jerry Stiller, Ben's father, plays Zoolander's manager. Christine Taylor, Stiller's wife, portrays the reporter that writes a feature story about Zoolander.

Iron Monkey: Yen Plays One Funky Monkey

by Stefanie Walker
Senior Editor

Iron Monkey is a film starring Donnie Yen, who plays a Zoro/Robin Hood type character who risks his life to steal from a corrupt government to help the poor. Among the common people, *Iron Monkey* is someone they look up to as an inspiration against their corrupted government.

Iron Monkey is directed by Yuen-Woo-Ping, who is known for his wire work choreography in *The Matrix* and *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon. Iron Monkey* has action mixed with a story you can really care about.

Iron Monkey's exciting martial arts is like a beautiful dance with deadly results. The wires work in the film to enhance the martial arts of Donnie Yen by making him appear super human.

The martial art style that is used in the movie is named Hung-Gar. Hung-Gar is an animal technique that consists of the Tiger and the Crane techniques. The Tiger for strength, and the Crane for speed and agility.

Park-o-Screams Fulfills Fits of Fun in Fenton

by Lisa Runde

To find a ride on the scary side Screamworld is for you. Screamworld is a haunted Halloween theme park located in Fenton, MO. Screamworld has added a full-scale carnival with games and rides along with thirty animations. Screamworld has four haunted houses, a monster museum and a hayride, plus full-scale carnival rides and games.

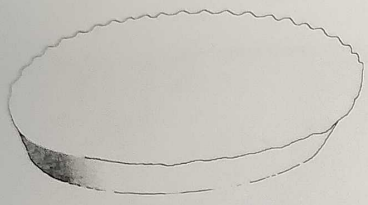
It's all new with seven haunted attractions including a dark ride, Vincent Price's Horror Museum maze and a fun house for kids under 12.

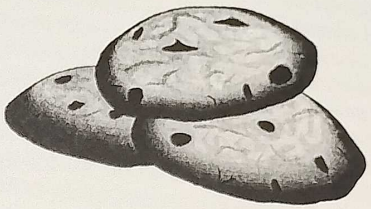
Open every Thursday through Sunday in October and every night on Halloween week starting at 6:30 p.m., St. Louis' biggest and only Halloween theme park also includes *Curse of the Mummy* in 3-D, Dominion of the Vampire (haunted maze), and a bigger, better, longer hayride.

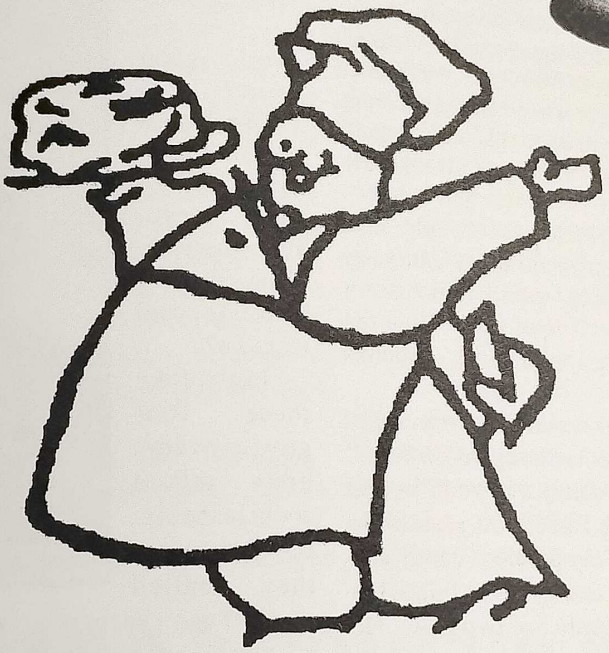
Tickets are $14.50 for adults and $10 for kids under 12. This price includes all of the haunted attractions. On weekdays, parking is free and on weekends parking is only $2.

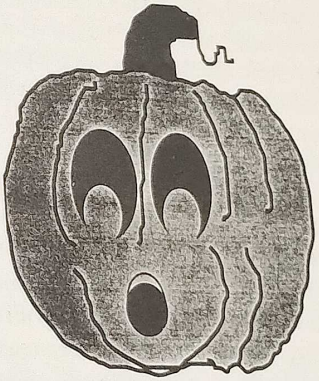
Duke Bakery

"Come Try Our Spooktacular Goodies"









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Call 462-2922 to Order All Your Halloween Treats!

"The official bakery of the RedBird Word"

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APPLES ARE NOT TREATS

by Nancy McDonald
Humor Editor

Many people look back on their past Halloweens with fondness. Not me! No way! It seemed like everybody got to pick what they wanted to dress up as on Halloween, except me. Do you have any idea how embarrassing it is to walk around dressed as a tomato because mom and pop thought the B-movie *The Attack of the Killer Tomatoes* was "disturbing" and "frighteningly real." My parents grew up in "Leave it to Beaver" land with Andy Griffith as the sheriff. So, of course, the tomato movie freaked them out.

You would think that for all the trouble the costumes were, all the Halloween candy would make up for it. WRONGO! I seemed to get all the really old people who thought it necessary to take my health into their own wrinkly hands. I went up to this old woman's house and she opened the door and said, "Here you go my dear. Here's an apple, bless your heart!"

I accidently blurted out, "You old bag! I don't eat healthy food at home, why would I eat yours? The apple's all dusty and nasty lookin.' Wait, are these apple-covered chocolates? I could go for some of those. Oh, sweet cellulite-maker, I love you!" Then the old woman ran me off her porch, throwing apples at me. . . thanks a lot grandma!

Then the candy that I did get my parents would take from me to "inspect it." You know, "Make sure no one had tampered with it." However, I liked to call it, "Taking all the candy that you like and leaving poor Nancy with half-eaten Tootsie Rolls." Oh yeah Mom and Dad, I knew it was you eating up all of my precious candy and not my dog. My dog had only three teeth, one eye was blind, the other eye had this blinking problem, and he only had two paws. He was tragically hurt in a freak hula-hoop accident. I'm not at liberty to reveal anymore information, at least until the lawsuits are settled.

So I guess what I'm trying to say is that Halloween was depressing and *The Attack of the Killer Tomatoes* could never happen in a million years (that was a personal note to my parents). Now go read Andrew Bott's humor article. He had a fairly positive Halloween experience last year. Well, except for those pesky ninjas, but I'll let him tell you about them.

A NOTE FROM THE HUMOR EDITOR:

I realize that some of Alton High School's students have parents who give out apples as treats on Halloween. There may even be a few teachers who do the very same thing. So I would just like to apologize. Yes, I am very sorry for any poor little kid who goes to a house expecting to get some sweet candy and ends up with a bruised apple.

O.F.M.S STRIKES AGAIN!!!

by Laura Griffith
Features Editor

Music. The voice of a generation. If that is so true, then why do some kids today listen to the oldies?

What's wrong with these people? Don't they know that music by groups like the Monkeys and the Supremes rots the brain? Whatever happened to that good old Slipknot music these kids are missing out on? Why can't *NSYNC satisfy their desire for good music?

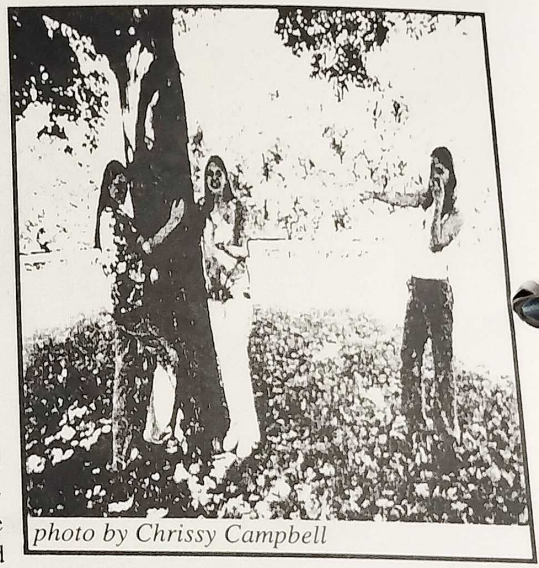

photo by Chrissy Campbell

Well, it's because they are stuck in a time warp. That must be it. What other explanation could there be?

Let's take these four guys everybody talked about in the sixties. What were they called again? I can't seem to. . . ah, yes, the Beatles.

One Beatle has long since passed away, and the youngest mem ber is about 58-years-old! I know people who have grandparen that old! That's not even the sick part. The sick part is that son girls still fantasize about them. They worship them the same w they do today's boy bands. Do you fantasize about your grandpa sure don't.

You can easily pick out these people in a crowd. They co monly sport tye-dyed clothing, colored sunglasses, and many ti have long hair. Avoid these people at all costs!

They probably wish they would have been born in the 19 so that they would have hit the ripe old age of 20 around the be ning of the hippie movement.

You may even see one of these people lovingly wrapped ar a tree. Don't let this frighten you! It's just their idea of peace

People, these poor kids are suffering from a serious illness O.F.M.S. (Old Fogey Music Syndrome). There doesn't seem a cure. If you are a good person then you will donate mo find a cure. So if you want to help and you want to avoid b in Satan's bad place for all eternity, please send mo Mrs.Brave's classroom (401).

Supporting the right for squirrels to wear pants since 1972

Halloween With Reflector Boy

by Andrew Bott

With Halloween coming up again, I thought I would share with you lovely readers what I did last year for the holiday. About a week before Halloween, I brought up the idea of going trick-or-treating again with my friends. One of them laughed at me while the others gave me a wedgie. But being the rebel I am, I dewedgified and committed myself to going trick-or-treating again, even if I was alone.

On the 30th, I was preparing to go out for a night of fun candy collecting. My mom and I had agreed that I should be very careful, so I decided to go as Reflector Boy. I spent the previous week going through people's trash collecting old reflectors, which I then hot glued to my leotard. Then I took a roll of reflector tape and wrapped it around my dad's old football helmet. I was styling. (Feel free to copy this inexpensive and safe idea for this Halloween, kids) After my careful preparation, I grabbed a 33-gallon Heftysak from the kitchen to hold my candy, and started out into the neighborhood.

I drove to a neighborhood that I always trick-or-treated in, and stopped the car in front of the first house with its outside on. I bounded up the sidewalk and rang the bell. A gruff looking elderly man answered the door. "Trick-or-treat!" I said enthusiastically.

The man said, "Aren't you a little old to be doing this?"

I cleverly replied, "Aren't you a little old to be alive?" I think it was a mistake though, because a spark ignited in his eye. I think he was a WW1 veteran or something.

He screamed, "MARTHA!! FETCH THE TONGS!!" That's all I needed to hear. I was out of there with my life, but no candy.

I walked a few houses down, and walked up to the front door of another house. "Trick or treat!" I exclaimed, somewhat less enthusiastically. Fortunately, this woman was blind. Well, not fortunately for her, but you understand.

She said "Hello" in a sweet voice. "Take whatever you want little boy," she said as she held out a huge bowl of the good stuff. You know what I'm talking about. A whole bowlful of those little strawberry things with the red goo in the middle. Jackpot! I reached in with both hands and got a huge amount of candy. I then repeated this process five times.

For the next couple hours, I walked from house to house filling my Heftysak and answering Reflector Boy questions. It was about 9:00 when I ended up running into problems. Obviously, my horde of candy atracted those evildoers, the bag snatchers. True, they were only ten years old, and yes, there were only two of them. But if you think about it, ten plus ten is twenty and their combined age was greater than mine. So I feel somewhat better about what happened. They were both dressed as ninjas, and had those plastic combat sticks as part of their costumes. You might not think so, but those things hurt! I did my best to protect the candy by contorting my body in hopes that my reflectors would blind them, but in the end they overpowered me and ran off into the night with my Heftysak and my keys. Battered and defeated, I gathered as many of the reflectors that had fallen off my costume as I could, then hobbled home.

Okay, so it's not the happiest halloween story in the world, but I think it teaches all of us a lesson about safety of Halloween. Although I lost my candy, time, and self-respect, I didn't get hit by a car thanks to my reflector oriented costume. If anyone is interested in purchasing a pre-assembled Reflector Boy costume for the one time low price of $19.95, please contact Andrew Bott for more information.

Nascar Is the Scourge of Mankind

by Jay Theobald
Senior Editor

N-sync, leprosy, the subliminal messages given before every Wehrenberg Theater presentation: all of these evils would have been fine topics for a mindless rant, they don't get to the root of our country's troubles. No, there is only one monstrosity that can be held accountable for falling grades, obesity, and communism, and that is Nascar racing.

The popular red neck pastime has done nearly as much damage to the country as Elian Gonzalez, but unlike the beloved, brain damaged Cuban boy, Nascar refuses to be violently ripped out of its suburban home and thrust back into its backwards country to live out the rest of its days in misery and cigar smoking. No, Nascar racing seems to be here to stay. After all, what person could resist a loud heap of metal going around in circles three hundred times? Indeed, Nascar has infinite appeal.

"Nascar stinks to high heaven. Don't quote me on that," says Max Juchheim, sophomore.

How can the average citizen combat this seemingly invincible abomination? We must band together. Every time you see someone picking up a box of Wheaties with Jeff Gordon on the front, slap it out of their hand. Every time you see a 5 year old boy pretending to be driving a race car, smack 'em over the head, hard. Every time you witness an elderly woman actually watching Nascar, mace her. Fellows, together we will take back our country!

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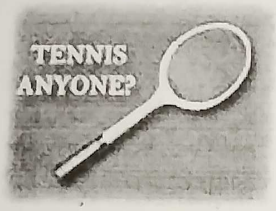


Sports

October 2001

RedBird Word

Simpson Courts Stardom

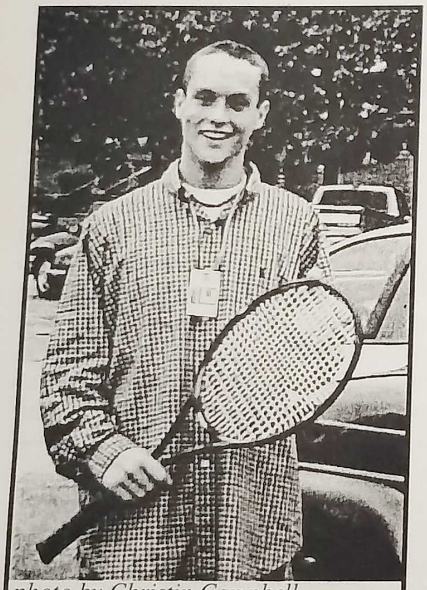


photo by Christin Campbell

by Andrea Zimmermann

Playing professional tennis has been a dream for Alton High School senior Rob Simpson ever since he first picked up a racket. Influenced by his father and grandfather, both former tennis players, Simpson began playing tennis at a young age.

Simpson's first major singles' tournament was when he was seven years old. Simpson "lost horribly," in this first step to becoming a star. A victory at the Cookie Crisp Tournament at Forest Park was Simpson's first singles' win when he was 10.

It wasn't until high school that this young athlete's name appeared regularly in area newspapers every spring and summer. It began with instant success on the high school tennis courts. As a freshman, Simpson placed second in the singles' conference match against budding area stars including teammate Doug Declue, who took first place.

In the State Tournament, Simpson placed in the top twenty. Simpson continued as a sophomore by placing first in the conference and sixteenth at State. His junior year, Simpson placed ninth at State. This year he hopes for first place.

Beyond Simpson's high school career, he continues to play tennis as an individual during the summer. He had the most success last summer, winning the Junior Davis Cup in the singles' division and placed thirty-second at the National Doubles' Competition with partner Josh Braley.

With his recent success, Simpson looks to be onthe road to stardom. Simpson, who prefers singles' competition, hasn't decided which college he plans to attend. When asked which tennis star he admires the most, he exclaimed, "Pete Sampras is the man! Because he's Greek and I'm Greek."

Granite City Destroys Tradition

by Katie Scoggins
Senior Editor

Homecoming will be different compared to previous years due to the Granite City teacher strike. IHSA rules (Illinois High School Association) state that high school athletes must practice for five days before the game. This resulted in the cancellation of the AHS Homecoming football game.

October 13th was the Homecoming dance, but the parade was not until the following weekend. For many this interruption of our Homecoming festivities was a disappointment.

Senior Meredith Lane said, "I don't like the change. It does not feel like a Homecoming weekend at all."

Benny Williams, a senior varsity starter for the AHS football team, replied, "I feel very upset, because I promised myself that I was going to really represent Alton High."

This was a devastating change especially for seniors. Hopefully everyone still made the best of another Homecoming at Alton High School.

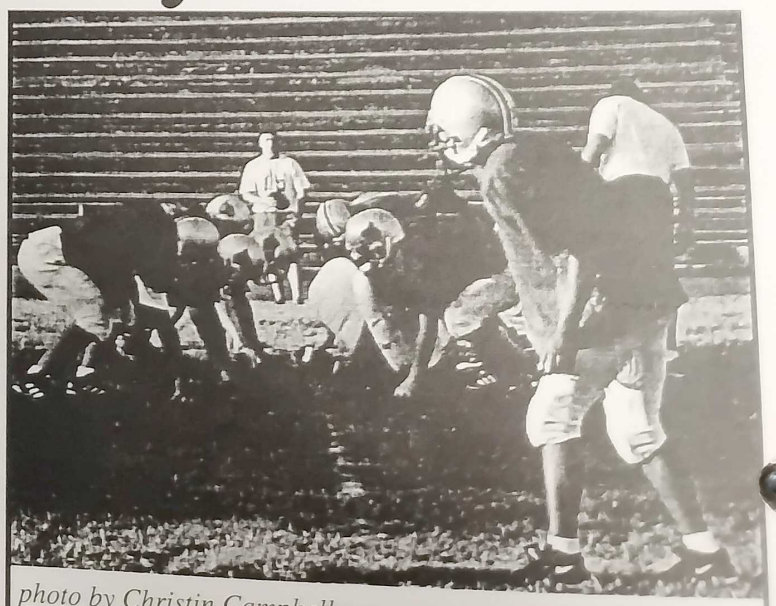


photo by Christin Campbell

He's Back!!!

by Toni Baskin
Senior Editor

Michael Jordan, superstar basketball player, is once again coming out of retirement to play the game he loves. "I have an itch that still needs to be scratched here, and I want to make sure the scratch doesn't bother me for the rest of my life," Jordan quotes.

Jordan will join the Washington Wizards, a team that he partially owns. There is much speculation about the upcoming season. The question everyone is asking is does he still have it?

Jordan hasn't played a NBA game since June of 1998. He is also 38 years old with a history of back spasms, knee tendonitis , and hamstring problems. He also broke two ribs during a pick up game earlier this year.

Senior Kim Lumpkin said, "Michael Jordan should not come back, because if you have broke two ribs just playing a pick up game, what's going to happen during an 82 game schedule?"

Several other students attending Alton High feel that Jordan will come back representing #23 as if he just began. While at the same time others totally disagree. Jordan said, " No one will take away my six championships or all I have done. I'm just playing the game of basketball."

Having said I will never play again, Jordan began working on basketball drills to lose weight. Jordan was 240lbs. trying to get back to 212 lbs. The more he worked on it the more the percentage of him not playing went down. Now back at his normal basketball weight, of 212 lbs., Jordan is ready to return to the NBA.

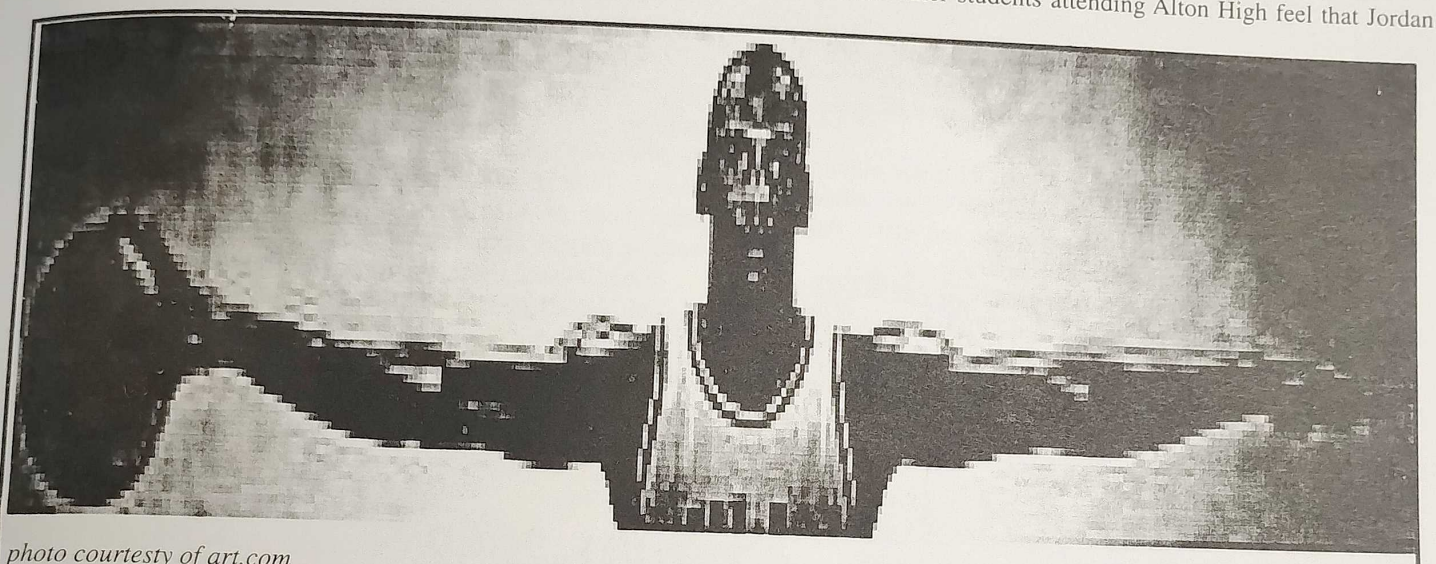
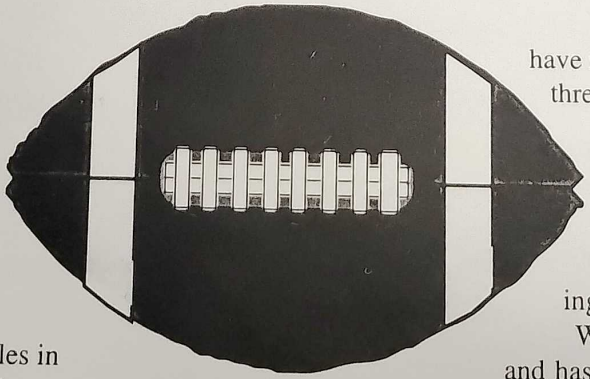


photo courtesty of art.com

Rams Charge Towards Winning Season

by Leslie Winters
Senior Editor

The St. Louis Rams are the only undefeated team in the NFL in all divisions. They have a record of 4-0, with one win at home and three wins away.



The Rams recently won 35-0, against Detroit in Michigan. After 115 games, this was their first shutout since they moved to St. Louis from Los Angeles in 1995. Their previous shutout being against Kansas City, with a score of 16-0, on September 25, 1994. They have now won the first four games of the past three seasons.

Rams quarterback, Kurt Warner, has a total passing yardage of 1,248 yards. Runningback Marshall Faulk has scored the most points for St. Louis at 30 points. He has also had 31 receptions and a rushing total of 336 yards.

Wide receiver Isaac Bruce has 21 receptions and has scored 29 points for the Rams. London Fletcher, the Ram's linebacker, has 27 tackles for the defense and six assists.

Pujols Powers Birds to Baseball Playoffs

by Carol Lyons
Sports Editor

The St. Louis Cardinals led by their "Super Rookie" Albert Pujols, qualified as a wild card entry in the National League playoff series. The Cardinals missed the oppurtunity to become the Central Divison Champs by dropping two of the 3 games on the last weekend of the season, to the Houston Astros. St.Louis opened the playoffs against the Arizona Diamondbacks. The Cards haven't won a World Championship since 1982, when they defeated the Milwaukee Brewers.

The leading pitcher this year was the 22 game winning Matt Morris. Albert Pujols was the Cardinals triple Crown winner, leading the team in batting averages, homeruns, and RBI's. Pujols is a lock for National League Rookie of The Year.

If the Cardinals are victorious they will play the winner of the Houston and Atlanta series. The Cardinals have a very task ahead of them. Yet, they have late season momentum on their side.

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Sting Hockey Strikes

by Jennifer Frederick
Co-Sports Editor and Photographer

Sounds of players hitting the boards, a player recieving a puck on their stick is not new to the NAHL (North American Hockey League) St.Louis Sting. They have moved from their former home ice to East Alton Ice Arena.

The Sting have been on the road for the beginning of their season with a record of 0-3. Their home opener will be October 26 and 27th against Pittsburgh.

Head Coach John Vivian, former Red Wings player, just took the postion in October 2000. Coach Vivian is expecting good things from his team. St.Louis has an outstanding list of players such as defensemen George Cantrall and Alex Ross, forwards Adam Krug and Joel Ihrie, and center Joe Edin. Many of the members are from other states or countries. Some of the hockey players for AHS are housing players from the Sting.

"I don't know much about them," said Shea McCabe.

Mat Woods said, "They rock the house! WOOOOOO!!!"

"I think it is a good thing for the community to watch a higher standard of hockey they aren't used to seeing,"said Eric Nell.

The Sting is strong and ready to make this the best year ever for them.

2001-2002 Home Schedule

OCT. 26 & 27 PITTSBURGH
NOV. 3 & 4 CLEVELAND
NOV. 18 CAPITAL CENTRE
DEC. 1 & 2 DANVILLE
DEC. 8 & 9 SOO
DEC. 16 DANVILLE
DEC. 22 & 23 SPRINGFIELD
JAN. 19 & 20 CHICAGO
FEB. 2 & 3 SPRINGFIELD
FEB. 10 DANVILLE
FEB. 24 COMPUWAVE (2PM)
MARCH 8 & 9 USA
MARCH 24 TEXAS
MARCH 29 & 30 CHICAGO

Saint Louis Sting

HOME GAME TIMES
FRI./SAT. 7PM
SUN. 1PM

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SCHOOL	TESTS	REPORTS

Which would you rather have: Brains, Beauty, or Money?

Erika Harris (11)- Brains. Without them I would be stupid and alone.

Derek Vaughan (11)- Brains. With brains, I can become very smart and get a lot of money out of it.

Jennifer Ryrie (12)- Money. With money, I could buy brains and beauty.

Mr. Clugsten (Teacher)- Brains. With brains, anything is possible.

Miranda Badgely (12)- Brains. So I can be smarter.

Daniel Genisio (11)- Money. So I can buy a really fast car.

Je'Quice Spells (10)- Brains. I can get a lot of money with a lot of brains.

Kennedy Bazzell (12)- Beauty. Being beautiful, I can take advantage of all the people that want to give me money.

Heather Baumberger (12)- Brains. I've always wanted a lot of money, and that's a good way to get it.

Cory Maher (12)- Money. It attracts all the pretty ladies.

Chris Hesh (10)- Brains. You can get all the money, then get all the women.

Horoscopes

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
You need more free time. Make time for yourself and forget about everyone else.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
As summer turns to fall, that special someone finds you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Only YOU can make ME happy! Keep it up. You've earned a lot of brownie points.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Watch your brownie points. You might gain a few extra pounds this month.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Special people make special friends. Now don't you feel special.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)
Don't start the year with the senioritis bug. It will haunt you for the rest of your high school years.

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)
Pull your friends together. There may be problems, but you are a good problem solver. Work with it!

Taurus (Apr. 20- May. 20)- Don't read the horoscopes. They're fake!

Gemini (May 21-Jun. 21)
You are a natural leader. Stop being a follower in the wrong crowd and be a leader in the right crowd.

Cancer (Jun. 22-Jul. 22)
To become a better person, set goals for yourself. Those who fail to plan, plan to fail. WHA HA HA!

Leo (Jul. 23-Aug. 22)
Use your humor to the fullest. People love to smile, so make us!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Think positive this month. Positive thinkers produce positive things.